

General Taylor. Mr. King was chosen by the Senate President pro tem, a place he had held in former years, from 1836 to 1841. It is unnecessary to state the particulars of Mr. King's nomination by the Democratic Convention in June last, and his triumphant election to the Vice Presidency. Being compelled to leave the country for the benefit of his health, he resigned his seat in the Senate during the late session. Mr. King entered political life as a follower of Mr. Jefferson, and has always been opposed to the exercise of implied powers by Congress. He was considered one of the champions of Southern State rights in the various controversies which have arisen in Congress on the tariff, slavery, and internal improvements. He has never been married. His residence in Alabama for many years has been at Selma, on the Alabama river.

THE CABINET.

SECRETARY OF STATE—WILLIAM LARNED MARCY. New Yorkers, and politicians generally, are familiar with the political life and career of this gentleman. Although his experience as a member of a legislative body has been very limited, the various executive offices he has held, and the influence he has possessed, from his political associations, have made him a man of mark among the men of his times. Mr. Marcy is a native of Sturbridge, Worcester county, Massachusetts, where he was born, December 12, 1786; and, consequently, he is now in the 67th year of his age. Having completed his academic course, he entered Brown University, (Providence, R. I.) where he graduated in 1808. He afterwards removed to Troy, in the State of New York, where he studied and commenced the practice of the law, and soon took the prominent part in politics as a democrat. During the war with Great Britain, he served as a volunteer in the military defense of the State. In 1816 he was appointed Recorder of the City of Troy; but afterwards, taking part with Mr. Van Buren in opposing the administration of Governor DeWitt Clinton, he was removed from office by the friends of that Governor. In 1818, when the anti-Clintonians came into power, Marcy received from Governor Yates the appointment of Adjutant-General, in 1821, and removed to Albany, where he has since resided. On the organization of that potent and secret association, called the "Albany Regency," Mr. Marcy became one of the most trusted and confidential members and advisers of its head, Martin Van Buren. To his connection with "the Regency" Mr. Marcy doubtless owes most of the good success which has generally attended him as a political leader. In 1823 he received from the Legislature the appointment of State Comptroller, which office he held for several years. In 1829 he was appointed one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the State; but in 1831 he resigned that office, in consequence of being elected United States Senator. He was in the Senate less than two years, when he resigned, being elected Governor of New York, in 1832. He was twice re-elected, viz., in 1834 and 1836; but on a fourth nomination, in 1838, he shared in the defeat of the democratic party, and William H. Seward was elected over him. After retiring from the executive chair, Mr. Marcy principally devoted his attention to his private business, until Mr. Polk became President, in 1845. He was then offered and accepted the office of Secretary of War, and was considered one of the most influential members of Mr. Polk's cabinet. The duties of the War Department during the Mexican war were arduous, and were discharged by Mr. Marcy with energy and ability. On his retirement from the cabinet, after the election of Taylor and Fillmore, Mr. Marcy exerted himself to heal the dissensions in the democratic party of this State. Although decidedly opposed to the free soil and Wilford proviso movements of Van Buren and others in the democratic party, Mr. Marcy urged the duties of the party as essential to success, and therefore became separated from many of its unkind friends. This feeling against him operated so far as probably to prevent his nomination for President at the Democratic National Convention, 1862. With a large section of the democratic party in this State Mr. Marcy is not popular; but his ability as a writer, tactician, and statesman, is generally admitted.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY—JAMES GUTHRIE. Is a distinguished lawyer of Louisville, where he has acquired great wealth and an elevated standing in society. He has grown up with the West, and is identified in feeling and interest with the prosperity of the Valley of the Mississippi. He is known as a Union democrat, and unites to commanding talents and an intimate acquaintance with the wants and resources of the whole country, manners the most urbane and prepossessing. He is considered a prominent leader of the Kentucky democracy, and is very popular with his party throughout the Western States. He has not been a member of Congress, but has had experience as a legislator in the Senate of Kentucky. He was President of the State Convention which formed the new constitution of Kentucky, in 1849. His friends predict for him a popular career as a cabinet officer and an able discharge of the responsible duties of the treasury department. He is about fifty years of age, of athletic form, and very energetic habits. It should be added, that in 1837 Mr. Guthrie was urged as a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court in stead of Judge Catron; and on the death of Mr. Clay, in 1852, he declined the offer of Governor Powell to appoint him successor to Mr. Clay as United States Senator.

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SECRETARY OF WAR—JEFFERSON DAVIS. Was born in Kentucky, and removed in early life to Mississippi, from whence he went to the United States Military Academy, at West Point, where he graduated in June, 1829. The same year (in July) he was appointed second lieutenant of infantry, in the United States army, and was made first lieutenant of dragons, in 1838. The same year he received the appointment of adjutant. In 1836 he resigned his commission in the army, and retired to private life in Mississippi. He married a daughter of Gen. Taylor, and this lady died several years since. In 1844, Mr. Davis was chosen one of the Presidential Electors for Mississippi, and voted for Polk and Dallas. The following year he was elected to Congress, and served one term as a member of the House of Representatives, excepting the time he was absent in Mexico during the war. In July, 1846, he was appointed Colonel of the regiment of volunteer riflemen raised at Monterey and Buena Vista. President Polk offered him the appointment of Brigadier General in the United States Army, in 1847, but he declined the offer. The same year the Legislature elected him United States Senator, and he was placed on the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, as chairman. He took an active part in important debates, particularly in advocating Southern rights, and his position placed him in the front rank of the democrats. He opposed the Compromise Union, which was supported by his colleagues.

Mr. Foote, and, being nominated as the State rights candidate for Governor, to run against Foote, he resigned his seat in the Senate, in 1851. He was defeated at the gubernatorial election, Foote being chosen by a majority of about one thousand. He has since remained in private life. In person Gen. Davis is of the middle size, and his habits are active and energetic; his age is about forty-five years, and he is considered well qualified for the duties of the War Department.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY—JAMES C. DOBBIN. Is a lawyer of Fayetteville, and was elected a member of the Twenty-ninth Congress (1845-47). He was Speaker of the House of Commons at the late session of the Legislature of North Carolina, and was the candidate of the democratic party for United States Senator; but his election was defeated by the intrigues of Romulus M. Saunders, and a few other members of the Legislature. This circumstance doubtless commended him to the favor of General Pierce. Mr. Dobbin was also a member of the National Convention at Baltimore, and promptly seconded the movement of the Virginia delegation in favor of the nomination of Gen. Pierce. Mr. Dobbin is in the prime of life, and of very industrious habits. In debate he is distinguished for eloquence; and his friends have every confidence in his ability to make a good successor of Graham and Kennedy in the Department of the Navy.

POSTMASTER GENERAL—JAMES CAMPBELL. This gentleman is at present Attorney General of Pennsylvania, to which office he was appointed since the State election last fall. He had previously been a lawyer of Philadelphia, and one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in that city. In 1851, an attempt was made to elevate him to the bench of the Supreme Court of the State, the five judges of which are elected by the people of the State by general ticket. Judge Campbell being a Catholic, and a special friend of James Buchanan, was defeated by the intrigues of General Cameron, late United States Senator, and other enemies of Buchanan; and the Protestant and Native American feeling arrayed against him. Consequently, Judge Coulter, one of the whig candidates, was elected, with four democratic judges. This circumstance, with the influence of Mr. Buchanan, have combined to give Judge Campbell his present prominent position. He is a good lawyer, and of active business habits. He is, we believe, the youngest member of the new cabinet, being about thirty-five years of age.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—CALEB CUSHING. At present one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, and well known throughout the United States as a distinguished politician and eminent scholar. Mr. Cushing was born in Salisbury, Essex county, Massachusetts, in January, 1800, and consequently is now in his fifty-fourth year. His father, belonging to one of the most respectable of the old families of Massachusetts, was extensively engaged in the shipping business, by which he acquired a handsome fortune. Caleb Cushing entered Harvard College when very young, and graduated in the eighteenth year of his age. He commenced the study of the law at Cambridge, and was appointed tutor of mathematics and natural philosophy in Harvard College, which place he held for two years, and then removed to Newburyport to engage in the practice of law. In his profession he was very successful, and acquired the reputation of a good lawyer. The political career of Mr. Cushing commenced in 1825, when he was chosen a representative from Newburyport to the lower House of the Massachusetts Legislature. In 1826 he was elected a member of the State Senate. Both these places he filled with ability, and to the satisfaction of his constituents. After this he continued in the practice of the law for two years, and in 1829 he went to Europe, on a tour of pleasure and observation. After his return he prepared for the press and published his "Reminiscences of Spain," a work which added much to his literary reputation. He also appeared as the author of a "Historical and Political Review of the Revolution in France," in 1830. About the same time he was a contributor to the *North American Review*, writing mainly on historical and legal subjects. Mr. Cushing was again elected to the Massachusetts Legislature in 1833 and 1834. He made several unsuccessful runs for Congress, but was finally elected to represent the North Essex District in 1835. His Congressional career continued for four consecutive terms, or eight years, viz.: from 1835 to 1843. Having commenced public life as a friend of John Quincy Adams, Mr. Cushing acted with the whig party, both in the State Legislature, and in Congress, until the administration of John Tyler, when Mr. Cushing was one of the few whigs who ventured to sustain the course of that President in abandoning his political friends. The consequence to Mr. Cushing was his separation from the whig party and eventually his connection with the democratic party for the last ten years. As a member of Congress he evinced decided ability, and his speeches and reports showed in the most favorable light his statesmanlike qualifications. In 1843, President Tyler nominated Mr. Cushing as one of his cabinet, but the Senate refused to confirm the nomination, owing to his political course, and the peculiar position of parties at the time. Thereupon the President nominated him as Commissioner to China, and the Senate assented to the appointment. He left the United States in the summer of 1843, and proceeded to China by the Mediterranean and overland route. In 1844 he negotiated a treaty with the Chinese government, establishing, for the first time, "diplomatic relations between the two countries. He returned to the United States by way of Mexico, having accomplished the important business of his mission, and passed around the globe, within the short period of a year. On his return home, Mr. Cushing made a visit to Minnesota Territory, as was supposed for the purpose of taking up his residence there. He, however, returned to Newburyport in 1846, and was again elected to represent that town in the Legislature. In that body he was the most prominent member in 1847, when the Mexican war was declared. He acted with the democratic members in advocating the policy of that war, and for appropriating \$20,000 for equipping the Massachusetts Regiment of Volunteers at the expense of the State. When his proposition was adopted, Mr. Cushing advanced the money from his own means, and the regiment was made ready for service. He was chosen Colonel of the regiment, and accompanied it to the Rio Grande, in Mexico, in the spring of 1847, being attached to the army under the command of General Taylor. Soon after his arrival in the Mexican Territory, he was appointed a Brigadier General in the United States Army, and several regiments of volunteers were placed under his command. Hostilities having ceased, and peace having been declared, General Taylor, being anxious for more active service, was at his own request, transferred to the army of General Scott. It was not, however, his fortune to be engaged in any of the brilliant actions of the war; and after various services, as a commander at San Jacinto and other places, he returned home on the restoration of peace. In 1847, while he was in Mexico, General Cushing was nominated by the democrats of Massachusetts as their candidate for Governor. This movement was the result of the election of Taylor, and the war, and was done without consultation with him. It doubtless greatly improved his position with the democratic party in the State and nation; and the increased, though, of course, unmerited vote given to him, compared with the democratic vote of the previous year, was flattering to General Cushing, and his friends who had urged the nomination. In 1849, General Cushing was a zealous laborer in behalf of the election of General Cass, voting on all occasions with the Union democrats, and against the free soil party. In 1850, he was, for the fifth time, elected a member of the Legislature from Newburyport, and was active in that body in opposing the coalition of the democrats with the free soil party, which caused the election of Charles Taylor to the United States Senate. In 1851, the office of Attorney General of Massachusetts was offered to Gen. Cushing by Gov. Boutwell, but he declined the honor. The Legislature of 1852 having created an additional Justice of the Supreme Court, Gen. Cushing was appointed to the office in May. It is admitted that he has performed the duties of his seat on the bench with ability and integrity, and as a judge, he has acquired an enviable and honorable position. In person, Gen. Cushing is tall and slender, with a pleasant and pleasing countenance. His habits are of the most active and industrious character, and his friends have great confidence that he will acquit himself in the duties of a cabinet officer with the same ability that he has shown in the various public stations he has occupied.

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MISSOURI. JAMES SHIELDS is a native of the county of Tyrone, in Ireland, where he was born in 1810, and emigrated to this country about 1826. In 1832 he went to Illinois, and engaged in the public service of the State. He was elected to the Legislature of Illinois in 1832, and State Auditor in 1839. Four years later he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court, and in 1842 he was elected President of the Polk the appointment of Commissioner of the General Land Office, he removed to Washington. The following year he was appointed by Mr. Polk a Brigadier General in the United States Army, and for his services he was promoted to Major General, and the rank of Brevet Major General. On his return to Illinois, he was elected by the Legislature U. S. Senator to succeed Mr. Bice. In March, 1849, his right to a seat was contested, on the ground that he had not been a resident of the State for the requisite period. The contest was carried to the Supreme Court, and he was finally elected. He was re-elected in 1851, and in 1853 he was re-elected by the Legislature, and took his seat in the Senate. Gen. Shields is of good personal appearance, about five feet eight inches in stature, with dark hair and complexion. His style of speaking is easy, fluent and agreeable. He is, of course, a progressive democrat, or he could not long represent Illinois successfully.

NEW YORK. JOHN PETTIT, who has been chosen to succeed the late Senator Whitcomb, is known as having been a member of the House of Representatives in Congress for six years, from 1845 to 1849. He was a successful lawyer, and a ready debater, and his talents were much in demand while in the House. In politics he is a radical progressive democrat.

MASSACHUSETTS. CHARLES SUMNER was born at Boston, in January, 1811. He graduated at Harvard College, and distinguished himself in literary studies and pursuits. Having studied law and engaged in successful practice, in 1837 he visited Europe, where he spent over two years, and enjoyed many advantages in the society of distinguished men. In 1843 he was the unsuccessful candidate of the free soil party for representative to Congress from Boston. In 1851, after a prolonged contest in the Legislature, he was elected, by a coalition of free soilers and democrats, United States Senator for six years from March, 1851. He is a man of great talents, and of high reputation as a Senator. His orations and speeches, before conventions and literary institutions, &c., have been published in two volumes. In person he is over six feet high, with dark brown hair, and a pleasant countenance, but not expressive of any remarkable degree of profundity.

NEW HAMPSHIRE. EDWARD EVERETT.—We gave a sketch, in the HERALD, of this distinguished gentleman on his appointment as Secretary of State, from which office he retired to-day, with increased popularity as a statesman, from the able papers he has produced during his brief career in the cabinet. We add the following sketch:—Mr. Everett was born in Dorchester, Mass., in April, 1794. His father was a respectable clergyman, and his elder brother was a minister at the court of Spain. He received his early education at Boston, and entered Harvard College when little more than thirteen years old, leaving it with first honors four years later, undecided as to a pursuit. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1817. He then embarked in business, and for two years to the profession of divinity; but, in 1814, he was invited to accept the new professorship of Greek literature at Cambridge, Mass., with permission to visit Europe. He accepted the office; and, before long, his duties, and his elder brother, who was again visited London, and passed a few weeks at Cambridge and Oxford. While in England, he acquired the friendship of some of the most eminent men of the day. In the autumn of 1819, he returned to the continent, and divided the winter between Florence, Rome, and Naples. In the spring of 1819, he made a short tour in Greece. Mr. Everett came home in 1819, and entered at once upon the duties of his professorship. Soon afterwards, he was elected the editor of the *North American Review*, a journal, which, though supported by writers of great ability, had acquired only a limited circulation. Under his new editor, the demand increased so rapidly that a second and summer volume was required, and numbers were required. One of his first cares as editor was, to vindicate American principles and institutions against a crowd of British travellers and critics, who were endeavoring to bring them into contempt. He succeeded in this, and formed his task checked this system of assault. In 1824, Mr. E. delivered the annual oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, at Cambridge, Massachusetts. The entire discourse was favorably received, and the paper, being a specimen of his style, was widely circulated. Mr. Everett came home in 1819, and entered at once upon the duties of his professorship. Soon afterwards, he was elected the editor of the *North American Review*, a journal, which, though supported by writers of great ability, had acquired only a limited circulation. Under his new editor, the demand increased so rapidly that a second and summer volume was required, and numbers were required. One of his first cares as editor was, to vindicate American principles and institutions against a crowd of British travellers and critics, who were endeavoring to bring them into contempt. He succeeded in this, and formed his task checked this system of assault. 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